GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:346
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2003
RECRUITMENT SCAM
NARESH KUMAR PUGLIA;SHYAMA SINGH

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of Recruitment Scam prevalent in defence forces;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether the exact cause of malpractices in recruitment to the defence forces has been ascertained;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to make stringent recruitment systems and to check the malpractices?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) There is no recruitment scam.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) & (d): Isolated cases of complaints relating to malpractices in recruitment to the Defence Forces have been received.These complaints relate to activities by touts, leakage of question papers, impersonation, fake certificates etc.

(e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 346 FOR 14.8.2003.

Complaints received on malpractices in recruitment are investigated immediately and punishment awarded commensurate with the gravity of the cases. The recruitment process for the Defence Forces is transparent and candidate friendly. Interference by brokers is strictly checked and verification of the bona fides of the recruits is carried out with the help of the local police. Steps taken to make stringent recruitment systems and check malpractices in the recruitment process are as under :

(A) ARMY

(i) Verification of character and antecedents of all recruits is conducted before and after their recruitment, to prevent recruitment of foreigners and anti-social elements.

(ii) All recruitment is done through the recruitment rallies only where there is direct contact of the candidates with the Recruiting Organization making the system more transparent and open.

(iii) The qualitative requirements (QRs) for recruits are strictly adhered to and there is immediate reversion of undesirable/unsuitable personnel, where necessary.

(iv) There is frequent turn over of the civilian staff manning various recruitment organizations.

(v) A system of independent check by a second Medical Officer has also been put in place to eradicate malpractices.

(vi) Total security of question papers is maintained and any leakage is immediately and strictly dealt with.

(vii) Touting activities are reported promptly to the civil police/CBI for necessary action.

(viii) Cases of corruption are dealt with strictly and stringent action is taken against defaulters.

(B) NAVY

(i) Results of written and physical tests are announced on the same day leaving little room for malpractices.

(ii) The staff of Recruiting Centers is turned over at regular intervals and procedures reviewed to prevent development of any vested interests.

(iii) Prompt action is taken on suggestions received to streamline the recruitment process.

(iv) The applications invited for recruitment in the Navy through advertisements in leading national and regional newspapers state clearly that recruitment in the Navy is a free service and in case of difficulties, the candidates could contact the Directorate of Manpower Planning and Recruitment (DMPR), Naval HQrs.

(C) AIR FORCE

(i) Pre and post recruitment verification of character and antecedents of the recruits for the Air Force is carried out through civil police.

(ii) Utmost secrecy is maintained in the setting up of question papers and different sets of question papers are prepared and randomly selected at the venue for testing.

(iii) Digital cameras are used for photographing candidates during tests to serve as permanent record and deter impersonation.

(iv) On receipt of any complaint of malpractice, stringent action is taken, both against touts and Service personnel.

(v) Constant vigilance is maintained during selection tests through augmented Indian Air Force Police staff.